

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-21, 24, 25, 27, and 32-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 24, 28 and 32-35 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Vo in the telephone interviews conducted on April 5, 2007 and April 20, 2007. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 28 to delete "the same fluid delivery port." Thus, the §112 rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tsuchii (U.S. Patent No. 6,398,353); rejects claims 1, 5-9, 12-21, 29, 30 and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tsuchii in view of Dowell (U.S. Patent No. 6,773,097); rejects claims 10 and 11 and 31 35 under U.S.C. §103(a) over Tsuchii in view of Dowell in further view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,698,871) (Hayashi); and rejects claims 24, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tsuchii in view of Cowger (U.S. Patent No. 4,920,362). Applicants traverse these rejections.

As agreed in the April 20 telephone interview, and as further discussed below, Applicants' amendments to independent claims 1, 5, 24, 28 and 32 overcome the current rejections.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 5 to recite "wherein the negative pressure medium containing chamber is separated from and not in contact with the filter." Applicants have amended claim 32 to recite "at least one capillary rib located between the negative pressure medium and the fluid delivery port." As noted in the Interview Summary for the April 5 telephone interview, "[t]he negative pressure generating member 6 of Tsuchii reference is locally in contact with a filter 9." Thus, as agreed in the April 20 telephone interview, Tsuchii does not teach or suggest a negative pressure medium is separated from and

not in contact with the filter, as recited in independent claims 1 and 5. Also as agreed in the April 20 telephone interview, Tsuchii does not teach or suggest a capillary rib located between negative pressure medium and the delivery port, as recited in independent claim 32. The other cited references, Dowell and Hayashi, do not overcome the deficiencies of Tsuchii. Thus, claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the combination of Tsuchii and Dowell and claim 32 is patentable over the combination of Tsuchii, Dowell and Hayashi.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claims 1, 5 and 32, as well as claims 6-21 and 33-35 which depend from independent claim 1 or independent claim 32, should be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claim 24 to recite "wherein the bubble chamber and the free fluid reservoir are connected by a passage that bypasses the negative resistance material containing chamber." As agreed in the April 20 telephone interview, Tsuchii does not teach or suggest the feature of a bubble chamber and a free fluid reservoir are connected by a passage that bypasses the negative resistance material containing chamber, as recited in claim 24. Further, the other cited reference, Cowger, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tsuchii. Thus, claim 24 is patentable over the combination of Tsuchii and Cowger.

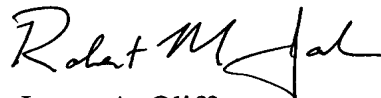
For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 24, as well as claims 25 and 27 which depend from claim 24, should be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claim 28 to recite "locating a fluid delivery port directly beneath more than half the free fluid reservoir, and delivering fluid from the cartridge only through a portion of the ink delivery port that is beneath the free fluid reservoir." As agreed in the April 20 telephone interview, Tsuchii does not disclose this feature. For at least this reason, the rejection of independent claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tsuchii, as well as the rejection of claims 29-31 which depend from claim 28, should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5-21, 24, 25, 27, and 32-35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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